

The Rural District Council of Wath.


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Wath.

Gentlemen,

I again have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1946, for the area of the Rural District Council of Wath.

The area comprising the Rural District Council of Wath is situated in the extreme South-East of the North Riding and forms a portion of the boundary with the West Riding of Yorks. It is a purely agricultural district with no industrial concerns within it. Two-thirds of the area comprises rich bearing corn land, and the remainder is rich pasture. It is not well watered in the centre, there being a great scarcity of streams. The River Swale forms its Eastern boundary and the Ure the Western boundary of the area, which adjoins the City of Ripon. The prosperity of agriculture gave an unprecedented boom to all employed in that industry.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	16997
Population (census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	2088
do estimated Midsummer 1946	...	...	...	...	...	1998
Live Births :—				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	27	19	46
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5
					Total	51
Still Births :—				<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
					Total	2
Live Birth Rate,	1946—25.5 per 1000 of the estimated population.					
Still Birth Rate,	1946—0.47 per 1000 total live and still births.					

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	8	8	16
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—					
Legitimate	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1
			—	—	—
		Total	3	1	4
			—	—	—

Death Rate, 1946—8.0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Total Infantile Mortality per 1000 Live Births ... 78.4

Illegitimate Children deaths under one year of age
per 1000 illegitimate live births ... 200.0

No deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Deaths from Measles ... Nil.

„ Whooping Cough ... Nil.

„ Diarrhoea ... Nil.

No excessive mortality.

No deaths from Childbirth ...

„ Puerperal Sepsis.

„ other Puerperal causes.

„ Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Pneumonia—1.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS.

A. FEVER :—

Council's Joint Hospital.

Joint Fever Hospital is situated at Ripon, one mile from Council's boundary, and is jointly held by this Council—Ripon City Corporation and Ripon & Pateley Bridge Council.

There is ample accommodation in Hospital for Fever Cases.

B. TUBERCULOSIS :—

N.R. County Council provides all services for all branches of Tuberculosis cases.

C. MATERNITY :—

Full and efficient service provided by N.R. County Council.

D. CHILDREN :—

Ripon, Harrogate Hospitals.

Ambulance facilities available,

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- A. Infectious Diseases Ambulance.
- B. Non-Infectious cases and Accidents conveyed by separate Ambulance.
- C. Maternity cases by the Ambulance (B).

Both Ambulances are stationed at Ripon, and jointly provided by the Council's adjoining and Ripon Corporation.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

- (a) F. STOCKTON GOWLAND, Solicitor, Clerk to Wath R.D.C.,
5, Finkle Street, Ripon. Telephone Ripon 576.
- (b) T. CARTER MITCHELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Topcliffe, Thirsk.
Telephone Topcliffe 230.
- (c) WILLIAM WATSON, A.M.I.C.E., Cert. R.S. Inst., North End
Northallerton. Telephone Northallerton 164.

NURSING.

Four District Nurses practice daily throughout the area.

All Notifiable Infectious Cases are removed to Council's Joint Isolation Hospital at Ripon.

The above four District Nurses act as Midwives throughout the Council's area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Efficiently and promptly supplied by the E.P.H. Laboratory, Northallerton, under North Riding County Council direction.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

During past years immunization has been systematically carried out throughout the Council's area. Sessions are held regularly for each village. The response has been most encouraging, and the results excellent. A high standard of 80—85% has been maintained through the District Nurses' instrumentality in canvassing parents.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

There are eleven townships in this Council's area.

Ten of these have a good piped water supply. During this year an extension was carried from the Melmerby Reservoir to the adjoining Village of Baldersby—2 miles away—with a population of 200 inhabitants.

Two of the above piped supplies are privately owned and give a full supply to the Villages. Regular collections were made of samples from all these supplies and were submitted for bacteriological examination with the result that during the year three water supplies were closely watched for evidence of contamination.

HOUSING.

Towards the end of the year the Council launched a scheme to build twelve houses which were to be earmarked for the Ex-Servicemen who were compelled with their wives and families to live with their parents, often under very cramped and overcrowded conditions. This scheme was put in motion at once and was only to form part of the major housing scheme to deal with overcrowding—cramped, unhealthy and unfit dwellings, which were scheduled under the "Scrutiny" Survey of the housing conditions prevailing in your area—made in 1944, under the Council's Instructions. This major scheme is to mature as soon as material is available and sanctioned.

Two Parlour—3-bedroom houses were decided upon for Asenby. Four at Dishforth. Four at Rainton and two at Melmerby.

SCAVENGING.

Repeated attempts and advertisements failed to procure any offer of contract to undertake the whole of the area—which is so badly needed and pressing. Only one portion of the Council's area is contracted for.

DRAINAGE.

Plans have been passed for the laying of a new village sewer at the village of Asenby for the East end, to which the new houses could be connected and conveyed to the centre of the Village, a distance of some 400 yds.

The Sewage Works at Wath functioned satisfactorily considering their elementary nature. The sewage tanks and effluent ditches from each township received constant supervision and attention. They did their work as far as could be expected from their limited capacity. Small townships—separated by distance and contour—being compelled to treat their own sewage.

MILK SUPPLY.

No public dairies exist.

More milk than ever was produced during the year. Large volumes were collected daily by lorry and conveyed in bulk to a central depot. There are sufficient retailers to supply the inhabitants. The quality and consistency of the milk has improved, yet cleanliness and observance of the regulations in force to deal with clean milk production are in some cases still far below the standard demanded by the Act.

I see no reason for this, now that nearly every cowbyre has a piped supply of water laid on, and in many cases also electric light to assist in cleanliness. Fodder is there and bedding is plentiful and the present day remuneration for the work entailed and the capital outlay make the milk production business a lucrative one, and leaves no ground for non-observance of the laws of clean milk and clean cows. Personal toilet or hygiene appear to be of no advantage or appeal to some workers in milk production.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. CARTER MITCHELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR 1946.

- A. Number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year 126
 Houses inspected 58
 Defective 26
 Other inspections 131
 Nuisances found and reported 47
 Number of houses reported for closing and waiting to be closed No additional houses for closure in 1946.
 Number of houses reported for closing and as not reasonably fit for habitation Nil.
- B. Number of notices served during the year 1946 ... 42
 Informal 42
 Statutory Nil.
- C. Result of the service of such notices :—
 No action necessary, but remedied as far as material allowed.

COWSHEDS.

The cowsheds on the register is 33.

They have been inspected during the year and generally found fairly satisfactory.

The condition of the cattle in a few cases has not been all that could be desired but there is a greater respect for the standard required and more attention given to this important matter.

The condition of the buildings is on a higher standard than previously and lime washing is carried out.

The retail supply is now confined to fewer persons which helps to obtain better conditions in the premises.

SEWERS.

No new sewers have been laid and no serious complaints have been received.

A few extensions and improvements have been carried out to private properties in connection with new W.C.s and baths, and seven new drains were laid.

The sewage ditches and tanks have been cleaned by contract.

10 W.Cs., 9 baths and 9 lavatory basins have been put in.

SCAVENGING.

No general organisation for scavenging has been made. Two villages have an arrangement for scavenging; other villages dispose of refuse privately.

HOUSING.

Three existing houses have been renovated and provided with bath, W.C. and lavatories and hot water to same and sinks.

No new houses have been built by private enterprise or by the Council.

NEW HOUSES.

A scheme for building 12 houses in the district was agreed. Owing to the difficulty of agreement for land in the Village of Rainton only 8 houses were included in the tender.

The tenders were received and considered by the Council Meeting held October 10th, 1946.

Only two tenders were received and the lowest was accepted, the total of which was £11,320.

This was reduced by revising specifications.

Work was commenced in November but owing to wintry weather the work was held up, little progress being possible till into next year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No Slaughter houses are in use in the District.

FOOD VANS.

These are inspected when on their rounds. Nothing has called for action.

Improved vans are now used and the trade appears to be increasing.

DAY SCHOOLS.

Inspection of the Day Schools has been carried out and conditions found satisfactory.

One school is now closed. The Boys' School at Wath only is still in use.

No improvement has been made in the sanitary accommodation, either at Dishforth C. of E. or Wath C. of E. Schools.

WORKSHOPS.

The seven registered workshops have been inspected and lime washing has been done.

OVER-CROWDING.

Grave cases of over-crowding still exist and cannot be remedied on account of the shortage of houses available, or permitted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. WATSON, CERT. ROYAL SAN. INST.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Rural District of Wath, North Riding, Yorks.

